

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR TYSON LARSON

District 40
49487 883rd Road
O'Neill, Nebraska 68763

Legislative Address:
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2801
tlarson@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Enrollment and Review
Agriculture
General Affairs
Judiciary
State-Tribal Relations

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

FCC
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 30, 2011

Re: WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Americans' growing reliance on communications via mobile broadband devices increases the jeopardy of areas that do not share the same access to this kind of technology. As a State Senator in Nebraska representing an agricultural district, I am keenly aware that many of my constituents face this jeopardy.

I would not presume to lecture the FCC on the current lack of broadband access in rural America nor the implications this deficiency has for the future of these underserved areas. That information is well documented in the National Broadband Report. I would, however, like to add my firm opinion that the most effective action the FCC could take this year to expand rural broadband coverage would be approval of the proposed AT&T – T-Mobile merger currently under review.

The additional \$8 billion private investment by AT&T that would result from this merger would expand 4G LTE advanced wireless broadband to more than 97 percent of the American public. This would include many small town residents and farm families here in Nebraska.

Access to this modern technology would not only have great economic benefits for these areas, but also a great impact on the quality-of-life in their communities. If you have never lived on a farm where the nearest multi-screen cinema is a two-hour drive away, it's perhaps hard to appreciate the convenience of downloading an HD movie onto an iPad while sitting on your front porch. While entertainment options in rural areas are appreciated, access to advanced wireless technology would, more importantly, introduce new possibilities for improved education, medical care and civic participation.

It is my hope that you will recognize the connection between these benefits and the transaction now before you, and approve the AT&T – T-Mobile merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Tyson R. Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tyson" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Larson".

State Senator Tyson Larson
District 40
Nebraska